

Amendment to Drawing Figure

Please amend Figure 2 of the present application so that decision block 214 reads "FINISHED WITH IM SESSION" instead of "FINISHED WITH IM SESSSION". A red line correction and a new copy of the Figure have been enclosed with the present response. The amendment does not add any new matter, It merely corrects a typographical error.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on September 9, 2005. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-19, 22, and 24-27 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant have: 1) amended claims 1, 22, 24, and 27; 2) added no new claims; and 3) canceled no claims. As such, claims 1-19, 22, and 24-27 are now pending. The Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 14-17, and 22, 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0130904 (hereinafter "Becker"), in view of Tang et al., U.S. Patent 6,731,308 (hereinafter "Tang").

Applicant respectfully submits that Becker in view of Tang does not disclose or suggest features recited in claims 1, 22, 24, and 27. More specifically, Becker in view of Tang does not disclose or suggest indicating the number of messages received in each of the indicators in a single IM session window which corresponds to one or more of a plurality of IM sessions in response to receiving a plurality of messages in one or more of the plurality of IM sessions.

As stated by Examiner, Becker does not describe how many messages the user received from any one of the other users. Furthermore, Tang does not describe indicating the number of messages received in response to receiving the plurality of messages. Applicant respectfully submits that Tang describes displaying additional information, such as the number of unread electronic messages and voice mail messages, only upon receiving a request from the user. See Tang, column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 11 and column 9, lines 26 through 29.

Notwithstanding the above arguments, Tang does not describe indicating the number of messages received in each of the indicators in a single IM session window. Tang describes displaying the additional information only in a separate window. See Tang, Figures 4A and 5A. Therefore, Becker in view of Tang does not disclose or suggest each element of claims 1, 22, 24, and 27. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 22, 24, and 27 are in condition for allowance.

The amendments to claims 1, 22, 24, and 27 are fully supported in the original specification on page 13, paragraph 0033: "When a message is received in one of the non-displayed IM sessions, the corresponding indicator for the non-displayed IM session indicates that the message was received..."

Since claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-17, and 23-26 depend from independent claims 1, 22, or 24 and include additional features, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7, 9-11, 14-17, and 23-26 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker in view of Tang and further in view of Vaananen, U.S. Publication No. 2004/001446 (hereinafter "Vaananen").

Since claims 12 and 13 depend from independent claim 1 and include additional features, Applicant respectfully submits claims 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker in view of Tang and further in view of Helfman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,396,513 (hereinafter "Helfman").

Since claims 18 and 19 depend from independent claim 1 and include additional features, Applicant respectfully submits claims 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 is objected to by Examiner as being allowable if written in independent form. Since claim 8 depends from independent claim 1 and includes additional features, Applicant respectfully submits claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

In light of the comments above, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

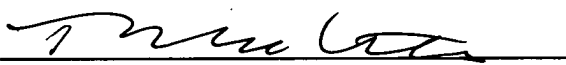
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas C. Webster at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully Submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Thomas C. Webster
Reg. No.: 46,154

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300

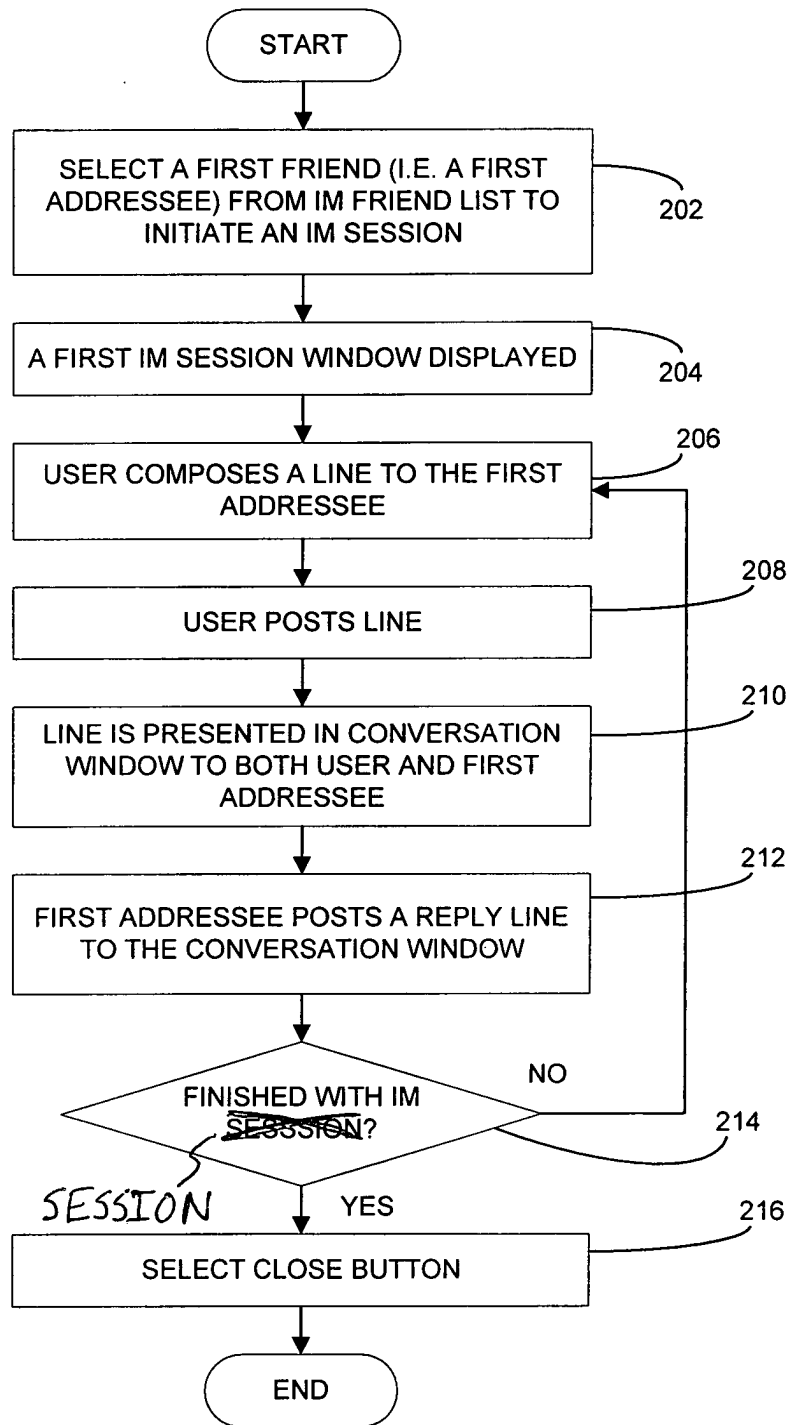


FIG. 2
(PRIOR ART)